

## LESSON 2: THE PAST AND PURPOSE OF ARMY JROTC



*conflict resolution  
culturally diverse  
leadership  
national defense act*

### MILITARY AND EDUCATION: HISTORICAL CONNECTIONS

Junior ROTC's mission to motivate young people to be better citizens has changed very little since 1916 when Congress passed the *National Defense Act*. However, the tradition of combining formal education with military studies goes back as far as the ancient Greeks. Centuries before JROTC existed, the Greeks, Romans, feudal Europeans, and Japanese had their own versions. In the United States, JROTC had its beginnings in Norwich, Vermont.

In 1819, Captain Alden Partridge, a former Superintendent of the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, founded the American Literary, Scientific, and Military Academy in Norwich, Vermont. This academy is now known as Norwich University. Military studies were a major part of the academy's course work. Captain Partridge felt that if his cadets were not prepared to defend their country's rights, their education was incomplete.

In addition to extensive drill practice and physical training (including marches of up to 50 miles per day), the cadets studied Latin, Greek, Hebrew, French, English, 10 types of mathematics, five types of law, and military history dating back to biblical times.

Captain Partridge's Academy was so successful that the idea of combining military studies with regular classes spread to other schools in the United States.

### WHERE ARMY JROTC IS

Army JROTC is active in more than 1,460 high schools worldwide: in all 50 states of the United States, the District of Columbia, Asia, Europe, the Caribbean, and other locations where the United States has an extended presence.



### PURPOSE OF JROTC

JROTC prepares high school students for responsible **leadership** roles while making them aware of the benefits of citizenship. Classroom and outside activities, including service learning projects, become opportunities to acquire the knowledge, discipline, and sense of responsibility that are necessary to take charge of one's future. The result is responsible cadets who are sure of themselves, can think on their own, and can express their ideas and opinions clearly and concisely.

### DESIRED GOALS

Leadership Education and Training goals are for cadets to:

- Graduate from high school.

- Be good citizens by knowing and exercising the rights, responsibilities, privileges, and freedoms of good citizenship.
- Gain leadership potential and the ability to live and work cooperatively with others; demonstrate leadership in situations involving **conflict resolution**.
- Achieve positive self-esteem and winning behavioral concepts in a **culturally diverse** society.
- Learn the ability to think logically and to communicate effectively, with emphasis on effective oral communication.
- Learn the importance of diet and of physical fitness in maintaining good health and appearance.
- Gain an understanding of the history, purpose, and structure of Army JROTC.
- Acquire proficiency in basic military skills (such as drill and ceremonies, first aid, and map reading) that are necessary for working effectively as a member of a team.
- Learn the importance of citizenship through American history as it relates to America's culture and future from the Revolutionary period to the present.
- Learn about the dangers of substance abuse and the importance of mental management, including goal setting and positive self-talk.

Academy, today's cadets are learning to lead and to motivate others while preparing to take part in today's competitive world.

## CONCLUSION

Junior ROTC cadets are part of a proud tradition. Like their predecessors at Captain Partridge's American Literary, Scientific, and Military